

S'NAG-A-NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLUMBUS SEA NAGS HTTP://WWW.SEANAGS.COM

Mar. 2014

In This Issue

General Meeting Minutes	p. 2
Calendar	p. 3
Executive Meeting Highlights	p. 3
Dive Reports	p. 3
Environmental News	p. 5
Log Book	p. 7
Parting Shots & Thoughts	p. 8

In Memoriam – Rod Maxson!

I remember getting to know Rod Maxson on a dive at White Star, a day or so after Christmas, 2006. Marty Bailey, Mike Kitchen, Andy Dennis, and I met him there in the south parking lot on a cold gray late December morning. It was my first time diving in the tunnel, a bit scary for someone who is not a cave diver or accustomed to overhead environs. After the dive, Rod offered me some of his hot chocolate or coffee to warm up. He had a big smile on his face. In fact, I don't remember ever seeing him without that big smile. What a nice guy!



As a former club president and newsletter editor, he would send me photos for S'Nag-A-News or video clips for the banquet (I could never tell what was his or Debbie's), pass along ideas about ways to promote the club, edit the brochures we made, offer encouraging words, you name it! Until they moved to Virginia last fall, he and Debbie were fixtures at

the annual banquet and at ScubaFest, which they had planned to attend later this month. They were also fixtures on the annual trek of some of our members to Bonaire.



J Maurer photos Xmas party 06; Blackbeard trip, Bahamas 01



S'NAG-A-NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLUMBUS SEA NAGS HTTP://WWW.SEANAGS.COM

Mar. 2014

Rod loved diving, maintaining his own regulators and gear, taking dive trips...You may not have known that he also participated in the surveying of the Cornelia B. Windiate shipwreck in Lake Huron; competitive skiing to raise funds for Winter Special Olympics; and enjoyed white water rafting, caving, (under water) photography, and rappelling. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Winter Special Olympics, c/o Barry Mones, 37331 Hidden Bay Dr. Selbyville, DE 19975. In keeping with his wishes, Rod will be incorporated into an artificial reef so that he may forever be apart of the ocean he loved to explore (from his obituary).



Rod (L) & Mark T ending ice dive. Photo by Rick Blaine

Our hearts go out to Rod's wife, Debbie, his family, and all who knew him. He was a wonderful diver, devoted Sea Nag, and great human being who will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Rod was 50 years old.



Rod turning 50. Photo by MT



Rod, Andy Silverman & Serena Sarah

Photo by Rick Blaine

With deepest sympathy to Debbie and the rest of Rod's family on behalf of the Columbus Sea Nags,

Rob

P.S. Another photo of Rod can be found at Parting Thoughts & Shots on p. 8.

General Meeting Minutes

Present: Marty Bailey, Adam Biehl, Andrea Caito, Josh Carney, Andy Dennis, Donn Ellerbrock, John Guegold, Steve Locsey, Glenn Mitchell, Ryan Parkevich, Maggie & Steve Ranft, Rob Robison, Mark Thomas, Michelle & Rick Thomas

50/50 & Member Raffle

Not held

Announcements

- 1. Annual Club (\$20) and Ohio Council (\$9) dues will be collected at the November meeting.**
- 2. Circleville Twin Quarries announced 2014 dive rates as follows:**
 - Annual Membership = \$175
 - Day Pass = \$ 14
 - Weekend pass = \$ 25

Additional Announcements

- 1. 2014 Club membership dues are \$20.00.**

S'NAG-A-NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLUMBUS SEA NAGS [HTTP://WWW.SEANAGS.COM](http://www.seanags.com)

Mar. 2014

- 2014 Ohio Council dues are \$9.00.
- Club logo patches and decals are available to new club members as a part of their membership dues. Returning members can purchase extra decals/stickers at a cost of \$1.00 each—these are plastic/waterproof—and extra patches for \$2.00 each.
 - Facebook: You can find the Club Facebook forum by going to: <http://en-gb.facebook.com/pages/Columbus-Sea-Nags-SCUBA-Divers-/289276535926?v=wall>, thanks to Andy Dennis.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

2014

March

- 6 General Meeting@ Planks, 8:00 PM. Steve Locsey on diving Cozumel
- 14-16 Scubafest@ Northpointe & Conf Center, 100 Green Meadows Dr. S. Lewis Center 43035
- 20 Executive Meeting @Planks 7:00PM

Apr

- 3 General Meeting@ Planks, 8:00 PM. M Bailey on Diving Bermuda
- 17 Executive Meeting @Planks 7:00PM

May

- 1 General Meeting@ Planks, 8:00 PM. Columbus Fire Underwater Recovery (Tent)
- 3-4 MAST Annual Banquet & Workshop. More info @ www.ohiomast.org/annualdinner/
- 4 Club dive – Lancaster Lakeview Park, Details TBA
- 15 Executive Meeting @Planks 7:00PM

June

- 5 General Meeting@ Planks, 8:00 PM.
- 7 Twilight Movie, Dive-In & Cookout @ C'ville Twin Q (Details TBA)
- 18 Executive Meeting @Planks 7:00PM

July

- 3 General Meeting@ Planks, 7:00 PM Social. No official program or formal meeting
- 17 Executive Meeting @Planks 7:00PM
- 19 Twilight Movie, Dive-In & Cookout @ C'ville Twin Q (Details TBA)

August

- 7 General Meeting@ Planks, 8:00 PM. Public Safety diving with John Sanders & Doc Whittington (Tentative)
- 9 Corn Roast/Gear Swap, Movie, and a Dive-In (Details TBA)
- 21 Executive Meeting @Planks 7:00PM

September

- 4 General Meeting@ Planks, 8:00 PM. Dive Medicine (TBA)
- 13 Twilight Movie, Dive-In & Cookout @ C'ville Twin Q (Details TBA)

21 Executive Meeting @Planks 7:00PM

October

2 General Meeting@ Planks, 8:00 PM. Nominations for club officers, Sea Grant update (TBA)

23 Executive Meeting @Planks 7:00PM

November

6 General Meeting@ Planks, 8:00 PM. Elections

8 or 15 ??Annual Banquet Location: TBA

13 Executive Meeting @Planks 7:00PM **IF NECESSARY**

December

4 General Meeting@ Planks, 8:00 PM. Awards

TBA Annual Christmas Party

31/1 8th Annual New Year's Eve Dive & Cookout. Details TBA

Program: Special thanks to **Mark Thomas** for his insights on underwater photography, sharing his portfolio, and for donating a photo to be raffled at our ScubaFest booth next month.

Executive Meeting Highlights

7PM@Planks, 2/20/14. Present: Josh Carney, Donn Ellerbrock, Ryan Jones, Steve Ranft, Rob Robison

Decided...

- Who would remind former members to renew their memberships.
- To survey members on ways to improve club
- To create 4 twilight Movie and a Dive-In experiences in June, July, August, and September complete with PM dive, cookout and movie related to the underwater world. See Calendar for tentative dates.
- Raffle a \$100 gift card at the Annual Banquet. Attend the March meeting to find out the details.

Dive Reports

Please send dive reports to

<newsletter@seanags.com>

Brought to you by

Lakeview RV Park

Full Hook-ups • Scuba Diving • Propane

Laundry • Swimming • Fishing • Wi-Fi

(740) 653-4519

Joey & Terrie Stewart

2715 Sugar Grove Rd.
Lancaster, OH 43130

Fax (740) 653-5606
rvatlakeview.com

Spasms

None reported

S'NAG-A-NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLUMBUS SEA NAGS [HTTP://WWW.SEANAGS.COM](http://www.seanags.com)

Mar. 2014

Written

Lancaster 2/17/14 Wow what a year it has been for ice diving. Usually by this time it's rare that we have ice and if we do it's usually too thin to walk on, but not this year. Andy and I returned to Lancaster for another ice dive on Sunday, it was snowing again, but very lightly. We took out our shovels cleaned off the staging platform, steps, and found where we had cut through the previous week. We began cutting out blocks of ice. This time we cut smaller blocks making it easier to remove, some were more than 16 inches thick. We recreated our path from the dock to the stake with the fixed lines.

Andy submerged first and I followed, swimming to the truck we checked to see that everything was in working order, turned on our lights and signaled that we was ready to start the dive. We had planned to swim through the trench, head to the boat on the west side and return by way of the culvert. It would take about 40 minutes and once back at the refrigerator we would decide if we would exit or continue on to the pontoons and the shallows, based on how cold our hands were.

However, we did not follow that plan, after swimming through the trench (it had surprisingly poor vis. compared to the rest of the quarry) and swimming around the boat we reached the junction to the line for the culvert at the 22-minute mark. My hands were still warm from the hot water I had filled my gloves with before the dive, so I asked Andy if he wanted to continue on the line and make a sweep of the objects on the north side of the quarry. He signaled OK and off we went. I'm glad that we did.

The north end was the clearest I've ever seen it with vis. approaching 40 feet. Andy ran into a catfish at the wheel chair reef and commented after the dive, that he did not realize that the

north end had a small wall and a more dramatic slope than he thought. The van and car were visible in their entirety from 20 feet away, and starting at the tail end of the airplane the cockpit was in full view. Swimming down its length you could see wing tip to wing tip.

We headed back to the cabin cruiser where I looked for the big catfish that normally lies under the starboard side. He wasn't there, so I checked the interior, again no luck and decided to head back. But after pulling my head out of the cabin, I found myself staring into his eyes as he was swimming over the roof. He wasn't moving very fast and Andy was able to get several shots of him before he left the area. At the Frito-Lay truck, I swam one pass over the truck, played with our air bubbles under the ice, and then swam through it, while Andy shot more video. At that point I was done, so I called the dive and swam for the exit (51'/62min).

Marty

2/9/14 On Sunday, Andy and I returned to Lancaster for another ice dive. But after the recent snowfall and having a couple more inches falling on that day, the ice diving became quite challenging. We couldn't park close to the water, and I had a little concern that we wouldn't be able to get our vehicles out when we were finished, never the less we began cutting out blocks of ice. They were over a foot thick and very hard to remove. This time we created a small run (enough to fit one person) from the dock close to the stake, where we created a hole big enough for the two of us.

Andy submerged first and I followed, but I didn't get very far, my first stage froze open with my first breath. I quickly closed my flow stop, backed out of the water and tried to thaw it out. With the air temps in the low 20's that wasn't going to happen. So I went to my back

up regulator and submerged again. It was working properly and after swimming to the truck, my primary regulator had thawed out in the 34-degree water. I switched back to my primary and with two working regulators signaled that I was ready to continue the dive.

We swam to the airplane by way of the culvert. Along the way Andy was using his GoPro. When we arrived at the airplane, we swam around and though it, before swimming to the stoplight, where we turned the dive. On our way back we took a detour to the rowboat before heading to the cabin cruiser. What a difference from our last dive, I only saw a couple of fish and they swam away quickly when we approached them. At the Frito-Lay truck, I swam a couple of passes over the truck while Andy shot more video, hopefully he could get me, the top of the truck, and the bottom of the ice in the frame. After my second pass, I thought about taking another run, but by that time my hands were so cold I just wanted to get out, so I swam for the exit (30'/58min).

I didn't bring my camera this time, so there are no photos in this update. But I have attached a neat time-lapse sequence that Andy shot of us last week. It's the work of cutting and removing the ice blocks reduced to about a minute. It makes it look like an easy job until you realize that it really took 45 minutes to complete the job.

Safe diving.
MB

Circleville Mark Thomas was with Columbus Scuba, Inc. (CSI) on 01/19/14 with 11 other divers ice diving or learning about ice diving at Twin Quarry 01/19/14. Vis was 20 feet; water temp 37°. Great day for everyone.



Photo by Rob



Photo of Steve Hecker & MT

Mark Thomas

Environmental News

'Iconic' Right Whale Wart Spotted in Cape Cod Bay

510 right whales estimated worldwide
Published 8:18 AM EST Feb 09, 2014

PROVINCETOWN, Mass. —A right whale known to local researchers as Wart was spotted in Cape Cod Bay Saturday afternoon, researchers from the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown said. Wart, who the center described as "one of the iconic whales of Cape Cod Bay," was freed from a life-threatening entanglement with fishing gear in 2010, and three years later, in January 2013, was spotted in Cape Cod Bay with a newborn calf.

Researchers described this as "a rare

occurrence, as right whales usually give birth in the warmer waters off Georgia and Florida." The population of the nearly extinct mammal is estimated to be 510 worldwide.



CCS Image under NOAA permit #14803
VIEW LARGE

"This season we have identified a total of three right whales that are known to have given birth last winter," said flight coordinator Corey Accardo. "The other two whales have been identified as Catspaw, sighted on Jan. 16 and 17; and Piper, spotted on Feb. 1."

Source: <http://www.wcvb.com/news/local/boston-south/iconic-right-whale-wart-spotted-in-cape-cod-bay/24376176#ixzz2sz1XhFvg>

Fiery-red coral species discovered in the Peruvian Pacific

Date: February 3, 2014

Source: Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

Summary:

A new coral species, *Psammogorgia hookeri*, has been collected by scuba divers from rocky ledges at depths to 25 meters in Peru's Paracas National Reserve.

A new coral species, *Psammogorgia hookeri*, has been collected by scuba divers from rocky ledges at depths to 25 meters in Peru's Paracas National Reserve. The corals' hand-sized colonies are slightly smaller than the colonies of their closest relative. Costa Rican researchers at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and the University of Costa Rica have named the coral for Yuri Hooker,

biologist and naturalist at the Cayetano Heredia Peruvian University in Lima, Peru. Researchers also found bits of coral attached to mussels from Independence Bay at a local fish market.



A new coral species, *Psammogorgia hookeri*, has been collected by scuba divers from rocky ledges at depths to 25 meters in Peru's Paracas National Reserve.

Credit: Yuri Hooker

[Click to enlarge image]

"This new species may be found nowhere else in the world," said Hector Guzman, marine biologist at STRI. "But coral reefs and coral communities in Peru have never been systematically studied. We expect more surprises as we look at new collections."

Odalisca Breedy, lead author of the new species report in the *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the UK*, and Guzmán are experts in soft coral taxonomy and ecology. To date, they have discovered nearly 25 new species of soft coral in the Pacific. This new species was identified based on colony characteristics and examinations of the coral using both light and scanning-electron microscopy. Breedy and Guzman compared the new samples with specimens at Peru's Ocean Institute, IMARPE and at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History. Most of the museum specimens were more than 90 years old because no one has collected in this area in recent times.

"With logistical support from the Peruvian National Protected Areas Service, we're

beginning to discover the amazing biodiversity of corals and marine invertebrates in the Peruvian Pacific," said Hooker. "It's mostly a matter of looking in the right places and inviting experts who can identify these relatively unknown and unstudied creatures."

This new species underscores the importance of Peru's still largely unexplored marine protected areas.

Source:

http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/02/140203133612.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily+%28Latest+Science+News+--+ScienceDaily%29

Log Book

Underwater Photobomb: Porcupine Fish Steals the Show

By Nidhi Subbaraman

You won't meet a more charming photo bomber than this startled porcupine fish.

One evening in November, photographer Andrey Nekrasov was on a dive looking for nocturnal wildlife, near Sharm al-Sheik in the Red Sea, off the coast of Egypt.

The group was at a depth of about 26 feet (8 meters) when this startled specimen — a porcupine fish — joined the party.

"He accidentally hit me in the flashlight beam," Nekrasov wrote to NBC News in an email. "But he did not see me."



Nekrasov sneaked a photo of the fish before it

inflated, then took a few of the puffed-up photo bomber before swimming away.

Robert Robins, a senior biologist at the Division of Ichthyology at the Florida Museum of Natural History, identified the fish as a member of the "diodontid" family, and a relative of the family known as puffer fish.

When startled, both puffers and porcupine fish swell up by swallowing water into a stomach pouch — but "they can perform the same trick out of water using air!" Robins told NBC News in an email.

Some species carry a toxin in their organs, which is lethal if the fish is eaten without being cleaned.

First published NBC News February 10 2014, 5:26 pm

<http://www.nbcnews.com/science/weird-science/underwater-photobomb-porcupine-fish-steals-show-n26661>

Parting Thoughts & Shots

In case you were wondering, ...



Photograph Captures Huge Wave That Looks Eerily Like A Face; Everyone Freaks Out

Photographer Simon Emmett captured this stunning shot earlier this week while snapping pictures near the harbor in the coastal town of Lyme Regis, England.

According to the Daily Mail, towering waves had been pounding Britain's shores the day Emmett took the haunting photo, as a

S'NAG-A-NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLUMBUS SEA NAGS [HTTP://WWW.SEANAGS.COM](http://www.seanags.com)

Mar. 2014

devastating storm lashed the island nation.

Emmett's awesome picture, which has gone viral, has stirred the world's imagination this week.

"Face of hell storm," the U.K.'s Daily Star wrote in a caption emblazoned over the epic shot on its front page Thursday.

On his Facebook page, Emmett wrote that he hadn't even noticed that he had captured the oceanic face until he "looked back through the shots [he] took."

"It's a strange feeling when you upload a photo and it goes global," he wrote in another Facebook comment, adding that the all the hubbub about the spooky snap has "totally blown [him] away."

Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/06/wave-face-photo-simon-emmett_n_4739326.html?utm_hp_ref=mostpopular



Rod Maxson (L) foreground & Capt'n Bob (R)
Debbie M row 3 (ctr)
Annual Banquet, 2009



SNORKELING IN MINNESOTA Alcohol May Have Been Involved

S'NAG-A-NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLUMBUS SEA NAGS HTTP://WWW.SEANAGS.COM

Mar. 2014

AD Rates

S'Nag-A-News monthly advertising rates are as follows:

Business Card \$4.00
1/4 Page \$10.00
1/2 Page \$20.00
Full Page \$30.00

Club members receive a 10% discount on advertising rates. Non-members receive a 10% discount for three months paid in advance.



NEXT MEETING: 8:00 p.m., Plank's Café, Thurs., Mar.6, 2014. Program: Steve Locsey on Diving Cozumel

The Columbus Sea Nags
Rob Robison
6803 Maplebrook Lane
Columbus, Ohio 432355

OFFICERS 2014

Acting President Rob Robison
(614) 546-9018 (cell)
president@seanags.com

Vice President
Steve & b Maggie Ranft
(614) 834-3941
vicepresident@seanags.com

Treasurer
Glenn Mitchell
614- 272-2448
treasurer@seanags.com

Secretary
Josh Carney
secretary@seanags.com

Newsletter Editor
Rob Robison
(614)-546-9018
newsletter@seanags.com

